

# Dempster Fibre Project

Monthly Newsletter - June Edition



## Dempster Fibre Project will ensure reliable internet service for Yukon and the North.

### About the Project

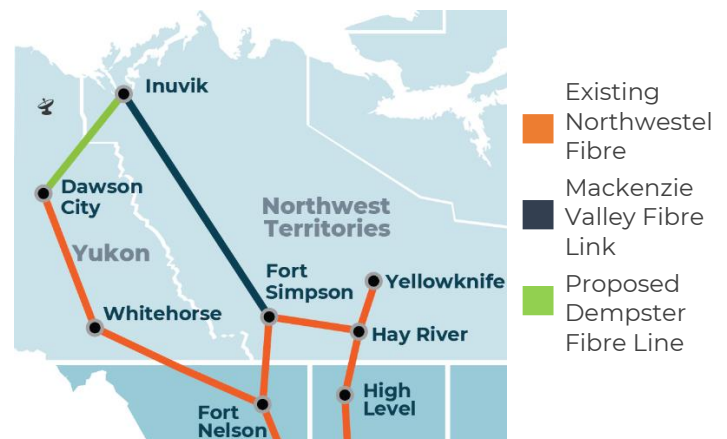
The Dempster Fibre Project is a proposed 800-kilometer fibre optic line along the Dempster Highway from Dawson City, Yukon to Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

The Dempster Fibre Line will connect to the existing Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link in Inuvik. Together, the new line will complete a 4,000-km network that will provide communities along the loop with a backup line in the event of a service disruption, ensuring they have more reliable internet and cell phone service.

There will be local employment and business opportunities for communities along the route during construction. The Government of Yukon is interested in working with First Nations, Indigenous groups, local businesses, and communities to make the most of the opportunities.

### Route

- 70 different communities in the North will directly benefit.
- The line will be owned by the Government of Yukon and operated by Northwestel.



### Funding

- The project budget is \$79 million.

#### Funding Sources

1. Government of Canada	\$59 million
2. Government of Yukon	\$5 million
3. Northwestel	\$15 million

## Project Updates

### Engagement Activities

This spring, the project team has been actively meeting with First Nations and stakeholders to understand their concerns and gather their feedback. As part of this initiative, open houses have been held in Dawson City, Old Crow, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik and Fort McPherson.

Attendees to these open houses have expressed interest in employment and other economic opportunities. One of the mandates of this project is to promote local procurement opportunities for First Nations and businesses. As such, the Government of Yukon hopes to maintain a high level of communication and engagement with First Nations and stakeholders throughout construction to ensure they are aware of upcoming opportunities. A timeline of the planned project schedule can be seen below in Figure 1.

### Regulatory Items

This month, draft submissions to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) (required for the Northwest Territories) were completed, and are being prepared for summer submission.

Both of these submissions are territorial requirements which ensure the proper levels of engagement, planning and environmental protection are taking place before, during, and after project completion. Once approved, construction of the main fibre line can begin.

### Planning and Design

Currently, engineering design of the fibre optic installation, and the selection of construction methods that will be used along the route are underway. The design work will be ongoing throughout the summer and fall, and is set to be completed in winter 2019-20.

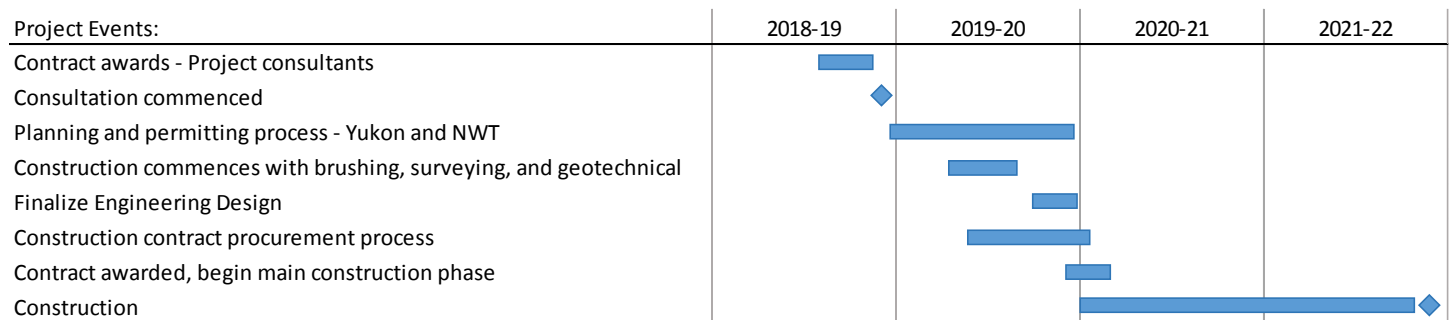


Figure 1 - Timeline of project events by fiscal year.

## Upcoming Activities

1. Distribution of draft YESAB and MVLWB submissions.
2. Planning and procurement for the project.
3. Ongoing consultation and engagement.

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